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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 26 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 26 March 2012, on the so-called "elections" held in the occupied regions of Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 26 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the so-called "elections" held in the occupied regions of Georgia

26 March 2012

On 25 March 2012, the Russian occupation forces and their proxy regime conducted so-called "presidential elections" in the Tskhinvali region, Georgia. Following the events that unfolded there a couple of months ago, the conducting of the so-called "re-elections" confirms that the situation in the occupied Tskhinvali region is under the complete control of the Russian Federation. In addition, on 24 March 2012 the Russian occupation regime held the second round of so-called "parliamentary elections" in Russian-occupied Abkhazia, Georgia.

By creating an illusion of democratic governance, the Russian Federation attempts to legitimize — though in vain — the results of the so-called "elections", thus concealing both ethnic cleansing and demographic changes perpetrated against hundreds of thousands of innocent human beings through vicious and coercive methods. Among other internationally recognized human rights, the Russian Federation has stripped the internally displaced persons and refugees of the right to return to their homes in a safe and dignified manner. Moreover, occupation regimes continue on a daily basis to violate the fundamental rights and liberties of the sparse remnants of the population residing in the occupied regions. These circumstances are further complicated by the fact that representatives of the European Union Monitoring Mission, or other international organizations, are prohibited from entering the occupied regions of Georgia and assessing the dire situation in regard to human rights violations.

Notably, the international community had unequivocally condemned the so-called "parliamentary elections" of 10 March 2012 in the Russian-occupied region of Abkhazia, Georgia, and clearly emphasized their illegitimacy. International organizations and a number of States, through their officially issued statements, once again confirm strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and stress that these so-called "elections" represent a grave violation of fundamental principles of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls on the international community to persevere in assessing the farce organized and executed by the Russian occupation forces in the occupied territories of Georgia, and continue to apply diplomatic pressure on Russia in order to ensure Russia's compliance with its internationally accepted obligations, including the terms of the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008.